

White Shark Related Sanctuary Regulations

• Regulations are specific to white shark attraction and approach

"The following activities are prohibited and thus are unlawful for any person to conduct or to cause to be conducted within the Sanctuary...(13) Attracting a white shark in the Sanctuary; or approaching within 50 meters of any white shark within the line approximating 2 nmi around the Farallon Islands..."

"Attract or attracting means the conduct of any activity that lures or may lure any animal in the Sanctuary by using food, bait, chum, dyes, decoys (e.g., surfboards or body boards used as decoys), acoustics or any other means, except the mere presence of human beings (e.g., swimmers, divers, boaters, kayakers, surfers)." 15 CFR Part 922.

• The sanctuary does not regulate "take" of white sharks (CA law regulates take of white sharks in state waters)



Reasons for Sanctuary Regulations

Federal Register (73 FR 70488)

- Address harassment, disturbance related to shark diving programs
- Address recreational visitors who opportunistically approach white sharks
- Resolve user conflicts between shark researchers, adventure tourism
- Prevent interference with white shark feeding





Implementing Regulations: White Shark Stewardship Project

- Public and Boater Outreach
- 2. Naturalist Training
- 3. School Education Programs
- 4. Permitting
- 5. Monitoring





Public and Boater Outreach

Objective: raise awareness of new regulations to encourage stewardship, enhance compliance

- General Management Plan public meetings, press releases (2001-2009)
- Stakeholder meeting June 2009
- Flyers targeting boaters widely posted Sept. 2009 (beginning of shark 'season')



NEW REGULATIONS TO PROTECT WHITE SHARKS ARE IN EFFECT

To protect one of the most important white shark populations in the world, NOAA/Office of National Marine Sanctuaries has enacted new regulations to ensure sharks are not disturbed (15 CFR Part 922)

FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITS:

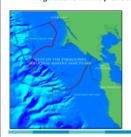
 Attracting a white shark <u>anywhere</u> in Gulf of the Farallones or Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries

Attract or attracting means the conduct of any activity that lures or may lure a white shark in the Sanctuary by using food, ball, chum, dyes, decoys (e.g., surfboards or body boards used as decoys), acoustics or any other means, except the mere presence of human beings (e.g., swimmers, divers, boaters, kayakers, surfers).

Approaching within 50 meters (164 ft.) of any white shark within 2 nautical miles of any of the Farallon Islands.

DID YOU KNOW...?

White sharks play an important role by keeping fast-growing seal and sea lion populations in balance. White sharks are already protected in California waters from hunting or fishing. The new federal regulations will help ensure they are not disturbed by unauthorized activities.





FOR MORE INFORMATION:

GULF OF THE FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

San Francisco CA 94129 415/561-6622 http://farallones.noaa.gov



Naturalist Training

Objectives:

- (1) Educate participants about the Sanctuary
- (2) Provide information on latest research, natural history of local white shark population and global information
- (3) Equip naturalists with conservation messages to inspire white shark stewardship among clients
- (4) Inform how to comply with permitting program and procedures

2009 and 2010 Free Trainings:

- Recommended for all naturalists leading on-the-water trips
- Required for educational white shark tourism permittees
- 50 Naturalists completed 2 workshops in 2009
- 35 Naturalists registered for 2010 workshop



Education and Outreach Activities

Thousands reached in 2009-2010

- 2009-10 Sharkmobile At Your School Program (kids)
- 2009 "Thank you ocean" podcast (adult public)
- 2009 Sharktoberfest in San Francisco (general public)
- 2010 Monterey Bay Aquarium's Shark Days (general public)
- 2010 Creature Feature Program (kids)
- 2010 International White Shark Symposium (international audience of researchers, managers, tourism operators, tag developers, filming interests)
- 2010 California and World Ocean Conference
- White sharks highlighted in Sanctuary visitor center and special programs (e.g. Sharks in the Sanctuary)
 - White shark stewardship webpage launched

Permitting White Shark Related Activities

The primary objective of Sanctuary is resource protection. Goal of White Shark Stewardship Project is to protect and conserve the white shark population that utilizes the sanctuary.

GFNMS may issue permit if activities meet 15 CFR 922.83 criteria

(e.g. - professional/financial qualifications,

- use of appropriate methods,
- end value of activity in furthering sanctuary goals,
- degree of impact,
- compatibility with primary goal of resource protection, etc...)

Activities that may involve attracting or approaching white sharks and may require a permit	Permit category
Educational Filming for Broadcast Media	Education
Educational Tourism	Education
Science	Research



Education Permits

Goal: help public understand, appreciate white sharks and dispel misconceptions about behavior

2009 permits:

- 3 tourism operators (Great White Adventures, Incredible Adventures, Wacky Jacky) allowed use of soft decoys to attract white sharks and educate public about white shark natural history, conservation
- Authorized Sanctuary-sponsored underwater filming project
- Education amendment to research permittee for filming research



Education Permits

Goal: help public understand, appreciate white sharks and dispel misconceptions about behavior

2010 permits:

- 2 tourism operators have submitted applications decisions pending
- 1 research permittee submitted education amendment request for filming research - decision pending





Permit Special Conditions

Special conditions in **Educational Permits for Tourism** will include but are not limited to the following:

- Acceptable decoys must be made of soft, low profile material like carpet in the shape of an elephant seal, sea lion, or other local marine mammal typically found at the Farallon Islands. Boats may not be underway with decoy deployed.
- Shark may not be fed at any time and chum/bait may not be used.
- The permittee must not interfere with any natural white shark feeding event and must not approach within 50 m (164 feet) of a white shark.
- Naturalist Training required. At least one naturalist that completed the sanctuary naturalist training on board per trip.

The permitee shall provide conservation messages to any passenger/broadcast filming operation (Filming for broadcast media is permitted on these trips)

Conservation Messages

- 1. The Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary protects the wildlife and habitats of one of the most diverse and bountiful marine environments in the world.
- 2. White sharks depend on the rich sanctuary ecosystem and as apex predators, play a key role in maintaining a balanced ecosystem.
- 3. White sharks are considered internationally threatened and they need protection.
- 4. Common myths have vilified white sharks. Debunk the myth— we are more of a threat to them then they are to us.
- 5. You can help conserve sharks—the information you share with your *passengers* plays a critical role in the protection of the species.



Permit Special Conditions

- The permittee may be required to accommodate a GFNMSdesignated observer
- Detailed daily logs will be will be due monthly GFNMS will provide data form
 - number of people reached
 - number, location and duration of shark encounters
 - duration of decoy use
- The permittee must comply with California boating regulations restricting noise and limiting speed to 5 nautical miles per hour within 1000 ft of Farallon Island shorelines (section 630(b)(71), title 14, California Code of Regulations).
- The permittee must comply with CA Department of Fish and Game regulations for Special Closures



Note: NOAA will refine Special Conditions as necessary

CDFG Special Closure at SE Farallon Island (Dec 1- Sept 14)





CDFG Special Closure at SE Farallon Island (Sept 15-Nov 30)



CDFG Special Closure at North Farallon Island (year-round)





Research Permits

Goal: obtain information about local population of white sharks to improve management, conservation

In 2009, 2 Research Permits Issued:

Barbara Block et al. /TOPP tagging project to install up to 100 tags (179 sharks tagged 2000-2008) over 2 years to investigate:

- coastal movement
- genetics
- migration patterns relative to prey
- internal energy budgets
- local population estimates
- (<1 year) long-distance movement</p>

12 white sharks implanted with acoustic tags using a pole tagging technique in Sanctuary in 2009

Research Permits

Michael Domeier/MCSI project to tag up to 10 white sharks in one year with satellite tags for long-term (>2 years), long-distance movement to learn about life history (e.g. breeding, pupping areas). 2 white sharks SPOT tagged in Sanctuary in 2009 using hook and line capture technique

- -Both permits allowed attraction using soft decoys and/or <20 lb piece of local cetacean or pinniped blubber.
- -Approach of white sharks was not allowed.
- -Presenting at Naturalist training required.
- -Filming for broadcast media (without education amendment) prohibited.

NOTE: These projects require CA Dept Fish & Game scientific collecting permits , Title 14, CCR Fish & Game Code Section 28.

Research Permits

Goal: obtain information about local population of white sharks to improve management, conservation

2010 permits:

TOPP Research Permit remains active (issued as 2-yr permit)

MCSI has applied for 2 year extension to tag up to 11 additional sharks

- NOAA has determined that an Environmental Assessment is required to evaluate potential impacts
- Draft Environmental Assessment is in process of being written/ reviewed
- Independent, expert review on status of shark hooked in esophagus in 2009 is underway (will be posted on sanctuary website)
 - EA is anticipated to go out for public comment in mid-August

White Shark Stewardship Project: Monitoring

Long-term Goals:

- 1. Determine the impacts of human activities on white sharks near the Farallon Islands
- 2. Assess effectiveness of permit conditions
- 3. Determine compliance with sanctuary regulations
- 4. Detect emerging issues to help guide decisions to protect white sharks

2009 Activities Focused on Goals 2, 3, and 4:

 Continued Vessel Monitoring Project to determine vessel activity patterns related to white shark encounters

(collaboration with PRBO Conservation Science)

- Mapping historical shark feeding frequencies, locations (with PRBO)
- Utilized permittee daily logs for on-the-water data



Questions?

GFNMS Website (announcements, resources, documents) http://farallones.noaa.gov/eco/sharks/sharks.html

GFNMS Permitting

http://farallones.noaa.gov/eco/permits/permits.html

Permitting and White Shark Stewardship Project Coordination:

August 9-December 15, 2010: Carliane.Johnson@noaa.gov Irina.Kogan@noaa.gov; 650-712-8791

Naturalist Training
Brad.Damitz@noaa.gov

White Shark Stewardship Monitoring Sage. Tezak@noaa.gov; 415-561-6622 x306



White Shark Education/Outreach Christy. Walker@noaa.gov; 650-712-8948